

340 10 ½ Street NW



Significance: High

Date of Construction: 1911

Architect: Unknown

Parcel ID: 040200000

Original Owner: Melissa Brown

Builder: Unknown

Building History:

This two-bay, two-story, frame and stucco house with aluminum siding was built around 1911. The foundation was replaced with concrete in 1953, the porch was repaired and siding added in 1982. The current dwelling has a hipped asphalt shingle roof and a central interior brick chimney. Across the façade is a two-bay, shed roof porch with a parged concrete foundation, and round wood posts. The front-facing windows are 6/6 vinyl sash type, with a pair of 1/1 vinyl sash. The front of the lot has a concrete walkway leads from the sidewalk to the front entrance. A concrete block wall runs between the front yard and the sidewalk. The rear of the property is fenced in with a privacy fence. There is also a prefabricated shed in the backyard. The site backs up onto a gravel alley shared by the other properties on this block.

Ownership History:

A.D. Cox sold the property to Melissa Brown on Jan. 1, 1911(County 144 – 318). In 1926, Arthur and Mamie Burgess bought the land but then sold it back to Melissa in 1927 (City 55-365) and (City 60-250). Melissa granted the property to her daughter Mary Brown Cooper in 1931 (City 72-82). Mary Brown Cooper remarried and became Mary Brown Tarry. She owned the property until her death in 1954 (City Tax Record). The property stayed in the Tarry family until 1971.

Social History:

Melissa Brown, an African American laundress, lived in and owned the house from 1911 until 1931 when Melissa's daughter, Mary Brown Cooper became the head of household. Mary Brown Cooper lived in the house until 1945. Her first husband, an African American porter, Robert D. Cooper lived in the house in the mid-1930s. Mary remarried and her new husband - Mr. Tarry - lived in the house with her until 1945. Their son Elijah Tarry lived in the house from 1945 – 1956. From 1956 until 1964, Mrs. Sarah B. Schumaker lived in the house – she may have rented the home or been a relative of the Brown/Cooper/Tarry family.

Statement of Significance:

This house was built for a female owner and owned by other female members of the Brown/Cooper/Tarry family. The house is one of the older dwellings in the neighborhood, although most of the original materials have been replaced.